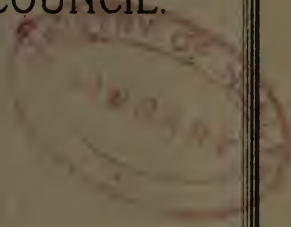


Wentworth
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A.
NANTYGLO AND BLAINA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

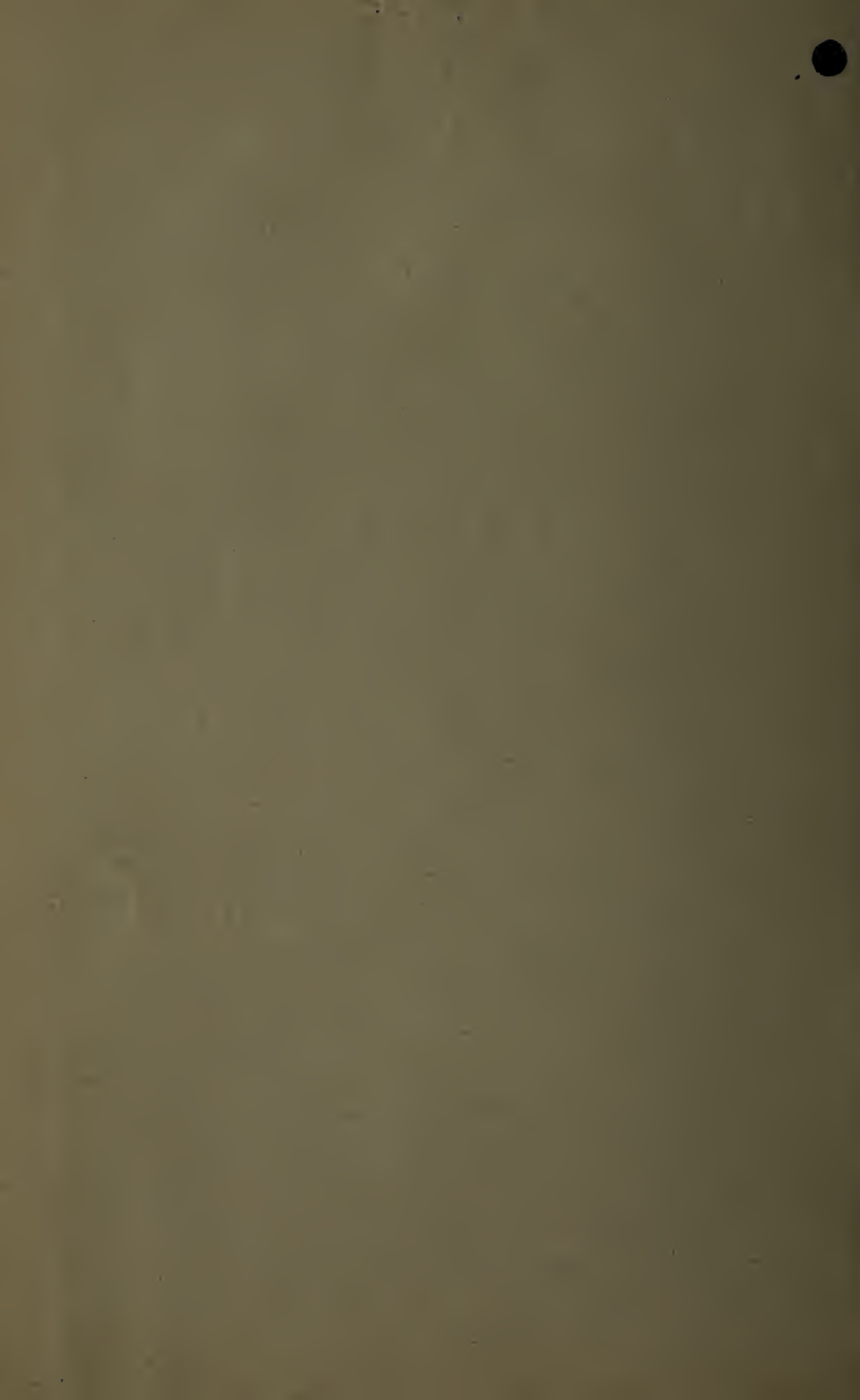


REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE YEAR 1937.

BRYNMAWR :
DOVER & Co., PRINTERS.

1938



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SECTION A.

Annual Report for the Year 1937.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

a—Statistics.

Area of District	...	...	3862 Acres
Registrar General's estimation of population, 1937		...	11,800
	1936	...	12,280
	1935	...	12,550
	1934	...	12,860
	1921	...	16,453
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	3,099
Number of Families	...	...	3,326
Rateable Value	...	...	£30,890
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£97

Vital Statistics.

Number of Births	...	..	164
„ Legitimate Births	...	...85 males, 79 females	
„ Illegitimate Births	...	... 1 male, 5 females	
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	13·9
General Birth Rate of Monmouth County		...	15·5
„ England and Wales		...	14·9
Number of Still Births	...	9. Males, 3 ; Females, 6	
Rate of Still Births per 1,000 of population		...	·76
„ „ Monmouthshire County		...	·90
„ „ England and Wales		...	·60
Rate of Still Births per 1,000 live births			54·8
Number of Deaths	...	...	168
„ Males	...	...	95
„ Females	...	...	73
Death rate per 1,000	...	..	14·2
„ of Monmouthshire County		...	12·6
„ of England and Wales		...	12·4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(a) Puerperal Sepsis 0 ; Other Puerperal causes 2.

Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 11'5

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

Total number of deaths under 1 year	...	9
Death rate per 1,000 births	...	55'5
Death rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	...	56'9
No Illegitimate Deaths	...	—
Death Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births, Monmouth County	...	63'9
Death Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births, England and Wales	...	58'0
Deaths from Measles	...	0
„ Whooping Cough	...	0
„ Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	1
„ Cancer	...	24

Infantile Mortality.

No. of deaths under 1 year ...	1937 9	1936 12	1935 11	1934 24	1933 18	1932 20	1931 16	1930 11	1929 19	1928 13
No. of Births ...	164	182	196	202	202	233	249	194	218	213
Infantile mortality rate...	55'5	65'9	56'1	118'8	89'1	85'8	64'2	56'6	87'1	61'0

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 Year.

Under 1 wk. 2	2 wks. 2	3 wks. 0	4 wks. 0	1—3mths. 2	3—6 mths. 1	6—9 mths. 1	9—12 mths. 1	Total. 9
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Total number of Births	...	164
Total number of Deaths under 1 year	...	9
Death rate per 1,000 births	...	55'5
Death rate per 1,000 births for Monmouthshire County	...	63'9
Death rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales	...	58'0

Analysis of Infectious Diseases according to Districts and Wards.

DISEASE	DISTRICTS			WARDS			TOTAL
	Nantyglo	Blaina	Totals	North	Central	South	
Pneumonia ...	12	22	34	12	7	15	34
Scarlet Fever ...	28	12	40	26	7	7	40
Diphtheria ...	4	8	12	4	4	4	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	2	3	1	—	2	3
Tuberculosis	Pulmonary	3	4	7	3	2	7
	Non-Pulmonary	3	—	3	—	—	3
	51	49	100	49	21	30	100

b—Social Conditions.

The District is situated at the Northern end of the County of Monmouth, and is bounded on the West by the Ebbw Vale Urban District, on the South by the Abertillery Urban District, and on the North by the Brynmawr Urban District.

Coal Mining is the only industry. A minor industry in the form of a Foundry for Light Malleable Castings has been commenced, employing about seventeen persons irregularly.

At the end of December, 1937, the total number of persons permanently unemployed was 1,090.

The number of temporarily unemployed persons was 29.

There is now very little fluctuation. In December, 1935 the number of permanently unemployed was 1,255, while the number of temporarily unemployed was 8. Taking into consideration the number of unemployed who have left the district to find employment elsewhere, there is very little improvement.

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Public Health Staff engaged by the Council are myself as Medical Officer of Health (part time), and a whole time Sanitary Inspector and a Sanitary Inspector who is temporarily employed. Both Sanitary Inspectors hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

One half of the salaries are paid by the County Council.

Facilities are provided by the County Authority for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens, water, milk and food stuffs.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council, and is kept by me for the use of Medical Practitioners who require it.

Streptocide is supplied by the County for use in cases of Puerperal Infection.

There are no Ambulance facilities provided by the Council.

There are two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, one at Nantyglo and one at Blaina. They, as well as the School Medical Inspection are conducted by the County Medical Staff.

The nearest treatment for Venereal Diseases is at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Blaina the second Wednesday in each month. It is attended by a Medical Officer from the staff of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

An Orthopædic Clinic conducted by the County Authority is held at Newport.

Nursing in the Home.

There are three Midwives practising in the area, appointed by the County Council under the Midwives' Act, 1936. There is also one Nurse practising independantly.

There is a District Nursing Association at Blaina affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. A Nurse attached to the Institute is employed by the Association.

There is a similar District Nursing Association at Nantyglo, affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association.

The expenses of maintainance of the Nurse in both districts is met by voluntary contributions.

Hospitals.

There are no Hospitals administered by the Local Authority.

Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and other Infectious Diseases, with the exception of Typhoid Fever, Small Pox, and Cerebro-Spinal Fever are treated in the Home.

These latter infectious cases are treated by an arrangement with neighbouring Isolation Hospitals.

There are a certain number of beds available at the Public Assistance Institute, Ty Bryn, Tredegar

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is good and the supply is now satisfactory. During the year a new water main has been laid from Beaufort, via Pond Road, Porter's Road, Garn Road to Garn Cross, down the main road to the Golden Lion Inn, where it joins the existing main.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage and Sewerage is on the Water Carriage system. The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon.) Main Trunk Sewer which discharges into the sea at low water west of the mouth of the Usk.

The scheme for the covering in of the river at Church Street and River Row has now been completed.

Nothing has been done to beautify this open space. A small portion of the river has been covered in at Market Road, Nantyglo.

There has been very little progress up to the end of December with regard to the scheme for covering in the river at Shop Row and Coalbrookvale.

Sanction has been received from the various departments, and there is every prospect of the work being started in the new year. Provisional approval has been given to the plans for laying new sewers to serve Llwyd Coed and Club Row Areas.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

When the Shop Row and Market Road schemes are complete there will be a considerable improvement in the pollution of the river. It is very necessary that the river should be covered in, in its whole length, particularly at Farm Road, and Felin Fwg.

3 (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were no conversion from conservancy system during the year. Of the 3,099 houses in the district, 450 are fitted with flush tanks, the remainder are hand flushed.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse is collected on alternate days. This is not satisfactory, the refuse cannot be adequately coped with possibly on account of inferior coal used. The refuse from Blaenau is being taken to Abertillery. Nantyglo refuse is conveyed to the North end of Limestone Road.

It is very necessary that a closer supervision should be kept here, as the place is very unsightly, particularly in windy weather, when the papers are blown against the railings.

It would be a great improvement if the ground were levelled up, both at the South end of Waengron, and at the end of Brynheulog. Because of the close proximity of these two sites to the houses it will be very necessary to control the tipping.

There is no improvement in the state of the main road on Sunday morning. The papers strewn on the road the night before are left lying about and are particularly objectionable in rough weather.

We have only one cesspool in our district, namely at Cinder Tip Cottages. This mainly drains through the large cinders. It occasionally requires cleansing.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No action has been found necessary during the year under the Provisions of the Shop's Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of Shops and to Sanitary conveniences.

No rag flock is made or sold in the area.

The Marine Stores are inspected periodically.

Smoke Abatement—No action was necessary with a view to abatement of nuisance from smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths in the area. The ponds in the district are still used by the children in spite of the fact that they are very dangerous, and have been proved by bacteriological examination to be contaminated and quite unfit to be used as Swimming Pools.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Complaints have been received on twelve occasions during the year. As a result the Sanitary Officers have visited the houses, and have sprayed with insectides in powder and liquid form, paying special attention to wood work. The tenants have been instructed as to means of preventing re-infestation.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of the Secondary and Elementary Schools are now satisfactory. There were several cases of Scarlet Fever in the Secondary School at one period of the year.

Since absence from school at this stage in the school career was considered a serious matter, it was decided to swab the throats of all contacts, and later to immunise all the children in the forms where the Scarlet Fever had occurred. This was done at a cost of £39 to the District Council.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	160
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	160
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	160
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	160
(3)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	none
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	none

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—*

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	40
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	none
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	...	none
(a)	by owners	...	none
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	...	none

(b)—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	30
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.		
(a)	By Owners	...	25
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	none

(c)—*Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	none
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	none

(d)—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	none
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	none

No action taken during 1937 as Councils' Rehousing Schemes were not sufficiently advanced.

Fifty-two houses under Slum Clearance Schemes are nearing completion and will be dealt with as soon as the new houses are ready. The Ministry of Health Inquiry in respect of these took place on September 1st, 1937, and the orders were confirmed.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV., Overcrowding.*

These particulars are taken from the Overcrowding Survey carried out during 1937, when 2,903 houses were measured.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	—	...	182
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein		...	220
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein		...	929
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	none
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	none
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases		...	none
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Council's Housing position is so difficult that no action has yet been found possible.			

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

The Farms and Dairies are periodically visited, and samples of milk are taken by the Sanitary Officials for examination at the County Pathological Department.

Samples of Milk from the whole area were taken twice during the year.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*

Periodic inspections are made of Meat, Slaughter-houses, Shops, and places where food is prepared.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	.	312	264	2496	676
Number inspected	...	No record.			
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil				
Carcases which some part was condemned	...	—	40 lbs.	—	22 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1 (700 lbs.)			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...		43 lbs.			

**The following is an Analysis of the Total Cases of Infectious Diseases
according to Age Groups.**

DISEASE	CASES													DEATHS													Number admitted to Hospital
	under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Total	under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Total	
Pneumonia	1	2	...	...	1	1	2	2	5	2	12	6	34	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	7	...
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	3	5	12	14	4	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	1	1	...	...	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	4	2	3	6	17	23	8	9	6	14	6	100	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	5	3	1	17	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Over 1 yr....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-15 .	...	...	1	..	1	..	...	...	...	...
15-25...	1	4	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	1
25-30...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
30-35...	..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
35-45...	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	3
45-55 .	..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
55-65...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	5	2	1	10	5	2	1	0	8

There were no cases of deaths from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

Deaths from All Causes.

DISEASE	under 1 yr.	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 and over	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	...	5	2	7
Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	6	12
Cancer	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	9	11	15	9	24
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	16	38	33	31	64
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	0	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	2	7
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	3	...	3	5	8	16	7	23
Total	9	...	...	4	...	1	1	4	10	21	45	73	95	73	168

In conclusion there is very little change in the conditions in our district. The Foundry which was started last year for Light Malleable Castings only employs about eight people. So far we have received no benefit from the erection of the New Steel Plant at Ebbw Vale.

The Sports and Pleasure Grounds at the Banna, Duffryn Fields and Pilgrim's Gardens are still much appreciated.

Owing to faulty construction the Pavilions at the Banna and Duffryn Fields are not yet in a fit state to be opened to the public.

I notice that the three areas prepared five or six years ago as playing fields for children is still lacking in equipment. After these areas were prepared an inspection was made by the Miners' Welfare Representatives and the equipment was promised within six months.

We have no Swimming Baths in the district, our children and young people have to go for instruction and amusement to neighbouring towns.

The facilities for School Camps as provided by the Social Services are a great boon to the children who previously only had very occasional glimpses of the sea when taken for "day's outings" by the various Church Organizations.

I wish to express my thanks to your Clerk, Mr. G. R. Jenkins, your Sanitary Inspector, and the whole of the Council Staff for their very ready help and co-operation.

FLORENCE M. WALLEN-GUNN,
Medical Officer of Health.



NANTYGLO AND BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1937 Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

Details of the general Sanitary work carried out during 1937 were not included in the Annual Report for the reason that it was not possible to get accurate information. The reason for this being that I was away from duty on account of illness for the first eight months of the year in question.

During a part of this time, a temporary Sanitary Inspector was engaged to carry out the duties. His appointment had terminated before the Annual Report was written, so we were unable to get his assistance in completing the details.

A survey has now been made of the reports and records with the following result.

General Sanitation which would include House repairs, Water supply, Drainage, nuisances under Public Health Acts, Infectious Diseases and miscellaneous matters.

Number of visits paid	160
Number of defects discovered	40
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were discovered and notices served	30
Number remedied by owners	25

It should be noted however, that during 1937 a large amount of special work was carried out in addition to the ordinary general sanitation duties and includes:

(1) The Overcrowding Survey.

Details of the number of houses visited and the number found to be overcrowded are given in the Medical Officer's printed report for 1937.

(2) Slum Clearance.

All the necessary information brought up to date, to do which, it was necessary to visit the whole of the 52 houses included in the Council's first Slum Clearance scheme.

Accurate details of the conditions had to be recorded and measurements taken. To do all this, the houses were each visited 4 times.

The whole of the Council's case had then to be prepared for the Inquiry, held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health on 1st September, 1937.

This matter was also referred to in the Report of the Medical Officer for 1937.

(Sgd.) W.T. ANGELL,

Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Department,
Council Offices,
Blaina,
Mon.

3rd February, 1939.

